matters concerning the development and regulation of the industries included in the Schedule to the Act. According to the Act, the Council is to consist of members, not exceeding 30 in number, representing different categories specified in the Act.

The Ministry of Industry has not received any specified proposal from State Governments for their inclusion in the Council. However, in their views on the Sarkaria Commission's Report on Centre-State Relations, many State Governments have supported the recommendation of the Commission to include representatives of the State Governments in the Central Advisory Council. This is being dealt with as a part of the implementation of the recommendations of the Sarkaria Commission's Report.

**Imposing cess on oil production in Gujarat and Assam**

1428. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Oil and Natural Gas Commission and Oil India Limited have gone to courts against the cess imposed on oil production in Gujarat and Assam, if so, what are the details thereof; and

(b) when the Central Government is unilaterally increasing the administered prices of oil and the revenue is not being shared with the States, what is the justification for the above Central Government bodies to question the right of a State to impose the cess?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) and (b) The States of Gujarat and Assam have enacted laws providing for the levy of a Rural Development Cess on lands in the States from which mineral oil (natural gas, condensate and petroleum) is produced. The incidence of this cess is related to the value of the mineral oil produced. ONGC and OIL have challenged the validity of these laws in the Supreme Court on constitutional grounds.

**Industrial joint ventures**

1429. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any industrial joint ventures are under consideration between India and USSR, Czechoslavakia, Japan and Germany; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) and (b) Some proposals for foreign collaboration with USSR, Czechoslavakia, Japan and Germany are at various stages of processing. Details of pending applications are not divulged till Government have taken a final decision thereon.

**NCBM claims for R&D technology achievements**

1430. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that National Council for Building Materials has claimed R&D and technological achievements and it has a technology package in the areas such as ready mix concrete, low cost housing fly ash bricks and coloured clinker;

(b) if so, whether any industrial enterprises were set up using NCB technology in the above areas and are supplying products to the public; and

(c) if so, what are the details of production and royalty earned by NCB through supply of these technologies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNALAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No industrial enterprise has yet been set up in these areas. However, it may be stated that CPWD has decided to set up a ready mix concrete plants based on NCBM technology at Delhi and is taking further steps in this regard. A number of enterpreneurs are also in contact with National Council for Cement and Building Materials (NCBM) for the transfer of technology on NCB-Fly Ash Bricks.

(c) NCBM has received Rs. 70,000 for preparation of feasibility reports on ready mix concrete. No royalty has been earned as yet.

**De-reservation for the manufacture of bicycle components by Small Scale Industries**

1431. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) what are the reasons for de-reserving the manufacture of bicycle components by Small Scale Industries;

(b) whether Government have assessed the impact of this decision on the Small Scale Sector in Punjab; and

(c) if so, what steps are proposed to be taken by Government to protect this Sector from such losses and also to safeguard the interests of labour that may be laid off?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) The de-reservation and change in nomenclature of some of the bicycle components from the list of items reserved for Small Scale Sector has been effected mainly to facilitate the absorption of modern technology, improvement of quality nad expansion of export.

(b) and (c) Majority of the bicycle components continue to be reserved for exclusive manufacture in the Small Scale Sector and changes in respect of only a few of the selected components is not likely to cause any significant impact on the Small Scale Sector in Punjab.

**Central assistance for renovation and modernisation of Thermal Power Station in A.P.**

1432. SHRI TALARI MANOHAR: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases in which Andhra Pradesh Government have sought Central assistance for renovation and modernisation of the thermal power stations so far during the last five years; and

(b) what is the Central Government's response to their request, project-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI KALPNATH RAI): (a) In 1984 the Andhra Pradesh authorities sought Central assistance for the renovation and modernisation of the Kothagudam thermal power station. In 1987, another proposal for the renovation and modernisation of the Nellore thermal power station was received. The Andhra Pradesh State Electricity Board also requested for the transfer of one activity, namely, the renovation of the coal handling plant of the Ramagundam thermal power station, from State Plan to Central Loan Assistance.

(b) The Government of India have sanctioned Rs. 32.41 crores under the Central Loan Assistance for the renovation and modernisation of the Kothagudam thermal power station. The proposals in respect of the Nellore thermal power station and the coal handling plant of the Ramagundam thermal power station could not be agreed to owing to the limited availability of fund under the Central Loan Assistance.